

ANNUAL REPORT.
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OF THE  
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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
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FOR THE  
~~~~~

RURAL DISTRICT OF HOLYWELL.
~~~~~

FOR THE YEAR

1945.

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# H O L Y W E L L   R U R A L   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L .

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT.

To:

The Chairman and Members of the Holywell Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I present my Annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1945.

### Social conditions including chief industries.

Agriculture is the chief occupation of the area which comprises half the County of Flint, lead and coal mining, stone and lime quarrying provide employment.

In adjoining areas large silk and iron works provide employment for numbers of the population of this area.

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Area in acres                         | 58,550.  |
| Population (estimated middle of 1945) | 20,550.  |
| Number of inhabited houses            | 7,055.   |
| Rateable value                        | £81,191. |
| Sum representing 1d rate              | £322.    |

### VITAL STATISTICS.

| <u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |                              |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
|                     | 313.          | 156.      | 157.      | Birth rate per 1,000         |
| Legitimate.         | 291.          | 142.      | 149.      | (estimated population) 15.23 |
| Illegitimate.       | 22.           | 14.       | 8.        |                              |

| <u>STILL BIRTHS.</u> | <u>16.</u> |    |    |                          |
|----------------------|------------|----|----|--------------------------|
| Legitimate.          | 15.        | 7. | 8. | Rate per 1,000 (live and |
| Illegitimate.        | 1.         |    | 1. | still) births 16.0       |

| <u>DEATHS.</u>               | <u>254.</u> | <u>130.</u> | <u>124.</u> | <u>Death rate per 1,000</u>  |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|
|                              |             |             |             | (estimated) population 12.36 |
| Deaths from Puerperal sepsis |             |             | Nil.        |                              |
| " " other " causes           |             |             | Nil.        |                              |

### DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

|               | <u>Total.</u> | <u>M.</u>  | <u>F.</u> |
|---------------|---------------|------------|-----------|
| Legitimate.   | 16.           | 15.        | 1.        |
| Illegitimate. | 1.            |            | 1.        |
|               | <u>17.</u>    | <u>15.</u> | <u>2.</u> |

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| All infants per 1,000 births   | 54.   |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000   |       |
| legitimate live births.        | 55.   |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 |       |
| illegitimate live births.      | 45.   |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages)  | 1.75. |
| " " Measles                    | Nil.  |
| " " Whooping Cough (all ages)  | Nil.  |
| " " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)  | 3.1.  |

## DEATHS.

|                                                | M.          | F.          |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Diphtheria.                                    | 1.          |             |
| Tuberculosis of the respiratory system.        | 8.          | 5.          |
| Syphilitic diseases.                           | 1.          |             |
| Influenza.                                     | 1.          | 1.          |
| Cancer of the Buccal cavity and Oesophagus (M) | 2.          |             |
| Cancer of the Uterus (Female)                  |             | 2.          |
| Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum.                | 8.          | 5.          |
| Cancer of the breast.                          |             | 3.          |
| Cancer of all other sites.                     | 10.         | 6.          |
| Diabetes.                                      | 1.          |             |
| Intracranial Vascular Lesions.                 | 14.         | 12.         |
| Heart Disease.                                 | 23.         | 47.         |
| Other diseases of the circulatory system.      | 2.          | 3.          |
| Bronchitis.                                    | 13.         | 3.          |
| Pneumonia.                                     | 6.          | 5.          |
| Other respiratory diseases.                    | 3.          | 1.          |
| Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.                  | 2.          |             |
| Diarrhoea (under 2 years).                     | 1.          |             |
| Other digestive diseases.                      | 1.          | 3.          |
| Nephritis.                                     | 2.          | 2.          |
| Premature Birth.                               | 4.          |             |
| Congenital Malformation, birth injury.         | 5.          | 1.          |
| Suicide.                                       | 1.          | 1.          |
| Road traffic accidents.                        | 2.          | 2.          |
| Other violent causes.                          | 3.          | 1.          |
| All other causes.                              | 16.         | 21.         |
|                                                | <u>130.</u> | <u>124.</u> |

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

- (a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (part time).  
I. Philippine Nelis, L.R.C.P. & S.I., D.P.H.
- (b) SANITARY INSPECTORS (whole time).  
D.O. Meredith Jones, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
F.G. Perry, C.R.S.I., J.D. Miles, C.R.S.I.
- (c) R.G. Murdoch A.M.I.C.E., M. Inst. & City E.A.M.T.P.I. A.M.I.  
Struct E.

#### (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Carried out by Emergency Public Health  
Laboratory Service, Conway.

#### (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There is no ambulance.

#### (c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Voluntary organisations provide existing facilities.

#### (d) TREATMENT CENTRES & CLINICS.

Administered by Flintshire County Council.

#### (e) HOSPITAL.

There is no hospital in the area:-

For Infectious diseases there is a  
Joint Hospital Board to which all  
the constituent districts subscribe.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### WATER SUPPLIES.

(i) The water supply of the Council's area of supply and its several parts has in general been satisfactory in quantity.

The shallow well feeding the service reservoir at Nerquis failed during the drier months of the year and it became necessary to utilize water from the Birkenhead main.

In a similar way during the summer months the supply to Mostyn Reservoir diminished and the demand was satisfied by Birkenhead water.

The Gwespyr and Upper Gronant Sections of the Garth supply was affected by breakdowns of the hydraulic rams. Low pressure was experienced at the Lower Gronant end of the coastal main due largely to the high consumption along this main in the summer months.

Owing to the deterioration of the supply pipe from Caerwys Reservoir it became necessary to maintain supplies to Caerwys by using Birkenhead water.

On certain lengths of small diameter mains the pipes are encrusted and the quantity available to consumers has been small. These lengths are now being renewed as part of the Council's programme for the year 1946-47.

The water supply of the area and its several parts has in general been satisfactory in quality. This matter is referred to again in (ii) and (iv),

(ii) Bacteriological examinations of seven samples of raw water have been made, six of which were satisfactory and one unsatisfactory, the latter being at Mostyn.

Similar examinations were made of three samples of treated water all of which were satisfactory.

Chemical analyses of four samples of raw water have been made, the result in each case being satisfactory. Two of the above analyses for Mostyn show the water here is "Hard."

(iii) The supplies are not liable to have plumbo-colvent action.

(iv) Some contamination has occurred in the supplies from the Mostyn Reservoir and the water has been dosed with chloros.

(v) (a) Direct to houses.

No. of houses.

3,660.

Population. (estimated)

10,980.

(b) Standpipe Supply.

No. of Houses,

2,465.

Population. (estimated)

7,395.

The above figures include premises supplied by the three statutory companies operating within the Rural District.

### Milk Supply. Cowsheds and Dairies.

The majority of cowsheds and dairies in the district were inspected during the year.

Improvements have been made to a number of cowsheds during the year particularly in relation to lighting, ventilation and drainage.

### Public Cleansing.

Refuse disposal for the whole area is undertaken by the Council. The work is undertaken by means of contracts and for this purpose the Council's area is divided up into 15 separate districts.

Shortage of labour has added to the difficulties of maintaining an efficient cleansing service.

It was found necessary to employ one contractor for several districts. The Contractor for the Brynford No. 15 area undertook the refuse collection for Caerwys and Rhydymwyn.

### Rivers and Streams.

No complaints of any pollution of rivers and streams were received.

### Shops Inspection.

All shops in the area were regularly inspected and the statutory provisions relating thereto enforced.

### Camping Sites.

All licensed camping sites were visited regularly. In some cases it was found necessary to draw the owners attention to unsatisfactory supervision. No difficulty was experienced in having the improvements put into effect.

### Smoke Abatement.

No complaints were received during the year.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No case of bug infestation was found during the year.

### Schools.

All schools in the area are periodically visited. The water supply and the sanitary arrangements are the chief subjects of the department's attention.

### Section D.

A considerable amount of time of the department was spent in housing inspection.

It was found very difficult to have repair works carried out owing to the extreme shortage of labour. The shortage of materials has also had an adverse effect upon the situation.

### Section E.

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Inspection of cowsheds and dairies are regularly undertaken during the course of the year a number of cowsheds were improved and brought up to a reasonable standard of repair.

Section E.MEAT    INSPECTION.  
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| Cattle<br>Excluding<br>Cows.                                       | Cows. | Sheep &<br>Lambs. | Pigs. | Calves. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Number inspected. 455                                              | 235   | 8,168             | 46    | 1,113   |
| All animals except<br>Tuberculosis Whole 4<br>carcasses condemned. | 5     | 12                | 1     | 6       |
| Carcases of which<br>some part or organ 107<br>was condemned.      |       | 145               |       |         |
| Tuberculosis only.<br>Whole carcasses 7<br>condemned.              | 8     |                   |       | 2       |
| Carcases of which<br>some part or organ 53<br>was condemned,       | 22    |                   |       |         |

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

| Under Age Periods.    | 1. | 1. | 2.  | 3.  | 4. | 5.  | 10. | 15. | 20. | 35. | 45. | 65. | Total. | Cases sent to hospital. | Deaths. | Rate.                 |
|-----------------------|----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|-------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Scarlet Fever.        | 1. | 2. | 1.  | 4.  | 7. | 26. | 10. | 2.  |     | 1.  |     |     | 54.    | 10.                     |         | 2.62                  |
| Diphtheria.           |    |    | 1.  |     |    | 8.  | 8.  | 1.  | 2.  | 1.  |     |     | 21.    | 20.                     | 1.      | 1.02                  |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever. |    |    | 1.  |     |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1.     | 1.                      |         | 0.04                  |
| Puerperal Pyrexia.    |    |    |     |     |    |     |     |     | 3.  | 1.  |     |     | 4.     | 1.                      |         | 12.1 per 1,000 births |
| Dysentery.            |    |    |     |     |    |     | 1.  | 1.  | 2.  | 1.  |     |     | 5.     | 1.                      |         | 0.24                  |
| Erysipelas.           |    |    |     |     |    |     |     |     | 1.  |     |     |     | 5.     | 1.                      |         | 0.24                  |
| Pneumonia.            | 5. | 2. | 1.  | 1.  |    | 5.  |     | 1.  | 2.  | 3.  | 1.  | 3.  | 45.    | 6.                      | 11.     | 2.09                  |
| Measles.              | 4. | 6. | 10. | 10. | 9. | 52. | 4.  |     | 1.  |     | 15. | 10. | 97.    |                         |         | 4.72                  |
| Whooping Cough.       |    | 1. | 1.  | 1.  | 1. | 2.  | 1.  |     |     |     |     |     | 8.     |                         |         | 3.40                  |
|                       |    |    |     |     |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 237.   | 40.                     | 12.     |                       |

The incidence of Scarlet Fever remains similar to the preceding year, on the whole there is good evidence of the importation of infection from outside. A severe epidemic of Scarlet Fever in an Institution was of this nature, where children returning from their homes spread an epidemic of 22 cases.

The drop in cases of diphtheria has been maintained - one death occurred where immunisation was not adopted.

# OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

| Cases<br>Notified. | Treatment<br>at home, | In<br>Hospital. | Vision<br>Impaired. | Vision<br>Unimpaired. | Total<br>Blindness. |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 2                  | 2                     | -               | -                   | -                     | -                   |

Rate 6.39 per 1,000 total live births.

IMMUNISATION. 1-5 yrs. 5-15 yrs. Total.

Estimated child population in  
the area Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st. 1945. 1,358 3,201 4,559

Number of children immunised  
between Jan. 1st & Dec. 31st 1945. 103 37 140

## TUBERCULOSIS.

| New Cases. |    |              |    | Deaths.          |    |              |    |
|------------|----|--------------|----|------------------|----|--------------|----|
| Ages.      |    | Respiratory. |    | Non-Respiratory. |    | Respiratory. |    |
| M.         | F. | M.           | F. | M.               | F. | M.           | F. |
| 0          |    |              |    |                  |    |              |    |
| 1          | 2  |              |    |                  |    |              |    |
| 5          |    | 1            | 1  |                  | 1  |              |    |
| 15         | 6  | 6            | 1  |                  | 1  |              |    |
| 25         | 2  | 8            | 1  | 3                | 1  |              |    |
| 35         | 1  | 4            |    | 3                | 1  |              |    |
| 45         | 2  |              | 2  | 2                |    |              |    |
| 55         | 2  |              |    |                  |    |              |    |
| 65         |    |              |    |                  |    |              |    |
| Upwards    | 1  |              |    |                  | 1  |              |    |
| 16         | 18 | 2            | 4  | 8                | 5  |              |    |

Rate 1.94  
Death Rate, 0.63

## PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

This is administered by the County Council.

(signed) I. PHILLIPPINE MELIS,  
Medical Officer of Health.

HOLYWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Manse,  
Mold.

28th August, 1946.

